

*T. W. Calescott, M.D. with the respects of the author*

Bodenhamer (W.)

FEW BRIEF AND DESULTORY REMARKS

ON

ANAL FISTULA:

BEING

A DEFENCE OF THE AUTHOR

AGAINST

THE SLANDERS AND THE MISREPRESENTATIONS

OF

DRS. B. L. HILL, WOOSTER BEACH, AND OTHERS,

RELATIVE TO THE TREATMENT OF THIS DISEASE.

BY

DR. W. BODENHAMER.

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"The man that can submit to *trudge* behind, was never made to *walk* before."—DR. JOHNSON.

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LOUISVILLE:

PRENTICE AND WEISSINGER.

1850.





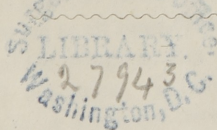
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## REMARKS ON FISTULA IN ANO, &C.

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The recent publication, in Cincinnati, of a work entitled "*Eclectic Surgery*," imposes upon me the necessity of submitting some remarks defensive of my character and practice, both of which being grossly assailed in this work. Of the author I have not the honor of an acquaintance, and were it not for his aim to obtain notoriety at my expense, I might perhaps have remained forever in blissful ignorance of his existence. Although he neither knows nor understands my views or practice, in whole or in part, yet he rudely and wantonly assails me in an article in his book, the spirit of which is both insulting and mendacious. He has in this committed an ungentlemanly act which is disgraceful and injurious to himself only. Had he confined his base slanders to the immediate sphere in which he circulates, or within the walls of the hall in which he delivers his insignificant lectures, and not have adopted the unusual course of placing them upon record on the pages of a surgical work, and thus endeavor to "*damn me to everlasting fame*," I might have pursued the even tenor of my way, and not have taken the slightest notice whatever of them. I have, however, on this occasion, in opposition to my usual course, resolved, even at the risk of serving the interest of this my defamer, by pointing attention to his *still-born* work, not to allow his base assertions to pass uncontradicted, lest, if I did so, I might be considered as acquiescing in their correctness. It is well known that I have not heretofore answered specifically the numerous calumnies directed against me, whether from entire strangers or from those whose previous associations ought to have suggested some little courtesy, if not a love of justice; being at all times disinclined to acrimonious and needless controversy, and believing too, that truth will always make its own way in spite of all opposition. I have therefore, from time to time heard in silence the most monstrous falsehoods in relation to myself and my method of treating certain diseases; but I have entirely relied, for

final approbation, upon the intelligence of those for whom I labored. This approbation has been bestowed upon me in the most distinct and unequivocal manner, and it is quite a sufficient antidote against slander and misrepresentation, as well as a satisfactory reward for exertion.

The tissue of falsehoods and misrepresentations alluded to, may be found on pages 366-7 of "*Eclectic Surgery*;" and although my name is not mentioned, yet it is manifest, that I am the individual to whom the author alludes; the insinuations being so expressed that it needed not to name the person in order to identify him. Why did this pusillanimous author *skulk* behind insinuations to attack me? If he believed them to be true, why did he not at once name me? Did Dr. Hill fear the statute against slanderers if he named me? If he did not believe these insinuations to be true, how dared he to insinuate them? He either did believe them to be true, or he did not; if the first, then his pusillanimity is most contemptible; if the latter, then his baseness is extreme. Such conduct is ungallant, it is dishonorable, it is illiberal, and a violation of that noble principle which requires us to do unto others as we would have others to do unto us.

"I allude," says Dr. Hill, "particularly to the notoriously successful, but none the less disreputable practice, of a person who attended the lectures of Dr. Morrow in Worthington, some years ago."

About seventeen years ago I attended a fall, a winter, and a summer course of lectures at the Reformed Medical College at Worthington, Ohio, of which Dr. Morrow was *but one* of the Professors. This I have never denied nor regretted. I subsequently attended a partial course of lectures at the Louisville Medical Institute. Dr. Hill continues:

"He located himself in Kentucky, where several bad cases of this disease (Fistula in Ano) fell into his hands. He cured them *of course*, which was a thing so unexampled in that part of the country where the superiority of the Reformed Practice generally was so little known, that he gained quite a *personal* reputation in consequence."

It is not true that the Reformed Practice generally was so little known in Kentucky when I located in Paris, Bourbon County. Drs. Sharp and Jackson, two Reform Physicians, had preceeded me two years at that place. Dr. McAnnelly, another Reform practitioner, was located at May's Lick, Ky., and Drs. Day and Harris, both Reform Physicians from New York, were located at Lexington, and subsequently at Richmond, Ky. They published a Reform Medical Journal which was broad-cast over the whole State, in which, among other things, Beach's method of treating a fistula in ano was published. They had even



treated several cases of this disease by this method before any case of the kind had fallen into my hands. So that it will be perceived that I had not the honor of introducing this practice into this State. The practice was then well known, and it is a matter of doubt with me whether it is as well known or appreciated at the present time. Dr. Hill further says :

“His success was such as usually attends the efforts of educated Eclectic Physicians. But I regret to say that the Reformed Practice, so beneficial to him, has not received *from* him the return it deserved. So far from acknowledging, like a liberal and high-minded man—that is like a Physician—the source of his success, and thus extending its benefits to the profession and mankind at large, he has not only claimed the practice as original with himself, but still more meanly has kept as a profound secret these *pretended* discoveries, which it is well known he was taught by Professor Morrow.”

The charge of my adopting Beach's method of treating a fistula in ano, and of claiming it as original with myself, is basely false, and I defy Dr. Hill or any one else to establish it. Never have I given the slightest countenance to the idea that any method whatever pursued by me was claimed as original. The charge, I repeat, is a base calumny, and cannot be substantiated. Whilst attending lectures at Worthington, I first learned Beach's method of treating this disease from his “American Practice,” and subsequently I heard Dr. Morrow lecture on the same. His lecture, however, was a mere repetition of Beach's method; having himself but a short time previously learned it from Beach. The first seven or eight cases of the kind that fell into my hands were in part treated by this method, but I soon found that, however well others might succeed with it, I could not, and I therefore justly abandoned it. I can prove by the correspondence I held with some of the most prominent Reformers of that day that I abandoned it, even in the very first case I ever treated. Had I not the right to do so? Who will dare say I had not? I was unwillingly compelled to abandon it, or to suffer my patients to fall into the hands of those who use the knife in this disease. I did not, however, hesitate for a moment as to the course that I should pursue, never having obligated myself in any way whatever to practice any exclusive system. In this I have not done anything that Dr. Beach himself has not done, and that he has not taught others to do. The want of success by his method at once taught me the important lesson and the great necessity of further study on the subject, and reminded me also that although he may have made an improvement in the treatment of this disease, yet the field of inquiry was still open before me,

and that it was inexhaustible. In fact the healing art is not one in which a physician can ever rest supine, but that it calls for constant activity and unwearying perseverance. Then, who, I ask, would censure me for my course, acting as I did, under such circumstances, and holding such views? Must I be the slave of the Professors, or any one of them, on whose lectures I attended? Am I ever blindly to follow such "*Will-o'-th'-Wisps*," and be governed by their mere *ipse dixit*? A pretty pass truly, that because forsooth, I attended the medical lectures of certain Professors, that I am thereby bound to swallow all their vagaries, their crudities, and their absurdities, and also to carry them out into practice too on pain of being ostracized. It is the very height of impudence to demand such a thing. I think for myself on this subject, and follow my own convictions of the truth of medical and surgical practice. I utterly despise and repudiate such a proscriptive and dictatorial spirit as this *young Hunker*, Dr. Hill, manifests. Although I do not practice Beach's method in the treatment of this disease, yet it is well known I have not denounced it, neither do I denounce those who do practice it. They doubtless labor according to their own opinions of what is right, but I would observe that their opinions may be a rule for them; but they shall not, on that account merely, be a rule for me. I shall judge for myself and leave others to do as they please.

The sentiment of Baglivi, "*I am neither for the ancients, nor for the moderns; but will be of every age and of every nation*," should be the sentiment of every genuine Eclectic in medicine. All such are ever ready, willing and desirous to receive medical truth from all and every source. I have always professed and practiced such eclecticism, and will continue to do so, never suffering myself to be confined by any system, or to be hampered or led captive by illiberal prejudice. It is true, I do repudiate that spurious species of eclecticism, which is exclusive, illiberal and sectarian in its character; such, for instance, as is fully developed in Dr. Hill's unjust and illiberal attack on me. I hope never to "*acknowledge the paternity*" of such as he, who have, it is true, the name, but they are entirely destitute of the *thing*. Dr. Hill professes too, to be a true and genuine medical reformer. That the science of medicine needs reforming, there is no question, but when I consider that this reformation is ever to be effected by such ignorant, illiberal and bigoted individuals as this Dr. Hill, and by such contemptible means, I must respectfully beg leave to feel guilty of the sin of unbelief. A tree may always be known by its fruit. Bigotry, dogmatism and intolerance are the genuine fruits of *ignorance*. Dr. Hill should be the last man who should ever



complain of the intolerance of the "*Old Hunkers*," as the old school physicians are called by him and others, after his manifestation of *young Hunkerism*, towards me. As bad as Old Hunkerism is represented to be by these persons, it contains within itself all the elements that are truly valuable in eclecticism.

It is a curious fact that in 1832 the *Steam Doctors* brought a similar charge, almost in every respect, against Drs. Beach and Morrow, that Dr. Hill in 1850 brings against me. The Thompsonians say, "We would ask Dr. Beach or President Morrow which is the worst, 'to steal the dress or names of others,' or to kidnap and take the life of their persons? and 'you take my life when you take the means by which I live.'" Let the Reformed Medical College lay aside the use of all such medicines as are secured to Dr. Samuel Thompson by patent, and which they have no right to use, and what of real value, especially in difficult cases, would they have left? "We challenge them to show a single article of much medical value, and on which they place much reliance in a difficult case, whose medical virtues were not first discovered by Dr. Samuel Thompson, and the right use to which is not now secured to him by patent. And it yet remains to be seen whether the public at large will justify and patronize such gross imposition on the public or not."—*Boston Investigator*, 1832. This is precisely the style, the spirit and the character of Dr. Hill's article against me. In Dr. Beach's reply to the above, the following sentences occur :

"We now challenge Dr. Thompson or Abner Kneeland, or any one else, to prove that we follow Thompson's mode of treating disease in any case. In all our *Materia Medica* we may use articles which he uses; but we do not employ them *as having been discovered by him*."—*Ref. Medical Journal*, Vol. 1, p. 94, New York, 1832.

The charge of my claiming as original any method that I pursue in the treatment of fistula in ano, I repeat is false. I lay no claim to originality of conception. I have, perhaps, scarcely anything new on the subject, if the principles and the practice which constitute my method, are to be taken separately. Nearly all the different parts have been admitted, and again and again employed from the days of Hippocrates to the present. The materials I employ are abundant and they lie open to all. I have elsewhere said, "That the rapid progress of modern pathology and surgical practice too, is daily introducing many improvements, but no successful attempt has yet been made to apply these accumulated and daily accumulating facts, to this class of diseases." This, in part, has been my humble work for the last fifteen years.

A friend of mine, an English surgeon, who, by the by, was well ac-

quainted with Dr. Beach's method, and who could not be deceived himself, neither would he attempt to deceive others, published the following seven years ago:

"Dr. Bodenhamer's principle of cure is a strictly scientific one, it is a principle adopted by all educated physicians, in the treatment of numerous surgical cases; and one in brief, without which they could do nothing. From frequent conversations with the Doctor, we have been enabled fully to comprehend his treatment, and have no hesitation in saying that, were it submitted to the judgment of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, Dublin or Edinburg, they would pronounce it perfectly scientific and the apponent of it to practice as worthy of all praise. For ourselves there is nothing we despise so cordially as quackery in any department of human knowledge or ingenuity. We can assure the public, there is none in the pretensions of Dr. Bodenhamer."

One great cause of my success, if I have had any, in the treatment of those diseases, is to be attributed to the fact that I have now devoted about fifteen years almost exclusively to their treatment, and to their investigation anatomically, pathologically and physiologically. During this period my opportunities for observation and experiment, have been quite ample, and I have not failed to avail myself of every source of information within my reach. I have consulted and studied with great care all the authorities on this subject, both ancient and modern, both European and American. Another cause of my success may be found in the fact that I do not follow any one exclusive method in every case, but that I often change my treatment, as I have elsewhere observed, "There is such a great variety of differences in different cases, and in the general condition of the patient, that it sins against our general experience of disease, if these differences are to be made of little account, and one kind of treatment, be that what it may, indiscriminately followed up." This was the sentiment of the great English surgeon, Pott, relative to fistula in ano:

"Whoever, says he, attends to this variety of states and circumstances, must be convinced that no one particular method can suit them all; but that in this, as in other cases, the surgeon's conduct must be varied and adapted to the exigences of each individual."—*Pott's Surgery*, vol. 2, p. 208: Phil. ed. 1819.

Perhaps there are but few affections in which just such a *rational* treatment is more necessary than it is in diseases of the rectum and anus. The causes of the difficulties, in the healing of many of these affections are so numerous that it constantly requires the judgment of the surgeon to be displayed in the investigation of each one of them, and especially the appreciation of the one that is present in the individual case. I have found whenever sores of this kind heal slowly, or show no disposition



whatever to heal, it is evident that something is wrong, either in the general health of the patient or that something exists in the part itself, to keep up irritation and to prevent a cure. The philosophic surgeon will therefore display his judgment and ability by minutely observing what it is in the case immediately before him, which interferes with the healing process, and endeavor at once to remove it.

The question now is, what constitutes this great, this transcendent method of treating a fistula in ano, which Dr. Hill says I was taught by Dr. Morrow, and which I kept a profound secret, and now practice and claim it as my own? It is the use of what Dr. Beach calls "*Vegetable Caustic*," a remedy well known and used for more than a thousand years before he was born, under the various names *Kali Causticum*, *Potassa Fusa*, *Alkali Vegetabile Fixum Causticum*, *Lapis Infernalis*, *Caustic Potash*, *Pierre Infernale*, &c., &c. Dr. Beach recommends it to be prepared from hickory ashes, making a strong lye and evaporating in an iron kettle till dry, then to be pulverized and kept in close vessels. This is said to be a little milder than that which is kept in the shops. Now I say emphatically that this caustic is the *sheet-anchor* of Dr. Beach and his followers in the treatment of fistula in ano. It is their *sine qua non*. They arm or charge tents, or pledgets with it, and insert them into the sinuses; they also inject a solution of the same, which some of them very appropriately call "*Wet Fire*." This, together with washes, poultices, and salves, constitutes Beach's treatment.—*See Beach's American Practice*, p. 535. New York, 1848. He sometimes combines the ligature with the caustic, but this method he has not practiced as much as the other, as he does not appear to approve of it to the same extent, and in the last edition of his work (1848) he says not one word about the ligature; the "*Vegetable Caustic*" being "*the sum and substance, the beginning and the end*" of his method. This is the grand "*open secret*" which Dr. Hill says I have kept a *profound* secret, that I have practiced it and claimed it as original. Yes, for the last seventeen years I have been humbugging this enlightened community by practising this fraud, this cheat upon them! Does this sapient Dr. Hill himself believe it? The charge of my having any secrets on this subject is utterly false. It is well known that for the last ten years I have dispensed no medicines whatever, that I write all my prescriptions, and that all my secrets are "*open secrets*," and are in the hands of some of the principal apothecaries of Louisville, Ky., New Orleans, La., and other places. My secrets are also in the hands of my patients, who at once learn all my applications and operations. They are in the hands, too, of a large

number of the most respectable physicians. The charge, I repeat, is therefore false, it is utterly incredible and it is stamped with falsehood and absurdity on its very face. How, I ask, could I impose upon the hundreds whom I have treated who were familiar with this "open secret," (some of them by sad experience) for it has been published through a thousand channels, and practised for the last twenty years? Who has not heard of it? Is it not in the hands of most every one who knows any thing about a fistula in ano? And is it not in the hands too of every ignorant pretender to medicine, every quack from Maine to Louisiana? And it will doubtless soon be in the hands too of all the old ladies, for Dr. Beach advises them to practice his method upon themselves, in this disease.—See *Beach's American Practice*, p. 537. Ed. 1848.

To show still further the absurdity of the charge against me, to all whom I have treated for this disease, and to all others who are familiar with my method, I will quote a few remarks from the "*Eclectic Medical Journal*." The author is one G. H. Hutchings, M. D., who it appears has cured a patient of a fistula in ano in seven months by Beach's method, or a combination of caustic potash with the ligature. Dr. H. says:

"In the application of the caustic we had to use a great deal of caution lest his *brain should become affected*, as it certainly produced evident symptoms of *cerebral disturbance*, caused no doubt by the INTENSE PAIN; hence but a small quantity could be used at a time."

The ligature, the Doctor informs us, was tightened by a piece of poplar bark. Of the ligature let us hear the poor patient himself speak. He says "*it was his FIFTY-SIX swung to keep him in trim*."—*Eclectic Medical Journal*, Aug. 1850, p. 338. May we ever be delivered from such a treatment as this. Who would not much rather risk the knife operation? Can any one conscientiously censure me for rejecting such a method? This is the method which Dr. Hill says I am indebted to, for all my success, "*of course*."—Fudge! He calls it the "*American Method*," (which we will shortly prove never originated in America,) and of which he asks the following question:

"Why is it not taught in any of the thirty-seven Old School Colleges, nor mentioned in any "established" text-book that can be named, unless for the purpose of indiscriminate disparagement?"

Has Dr. Hill the consummate vanity to suppose that this practice will ever be adopted by any scientific men? With all the bolstering and the propping up of this method by Beach, Hill, and others, they may rest assured that it will never be adopted by any of the Old School Colleges. They need not, therefore, lay this flattering unction to their souls for a



moment. The idea, too, of my stealing this practice, claiming it as my own, and keeping it a profound secret, is too ridiculous. In the same article in the journal above quoted, this same Dr. Hutchings says that his patient had concluded "to go to Louisville to consult an M. D. who resides there part of his time, distinguished in such cases, but wanting the magnanimity of soul to acknowledge his medical paternity." I freely confess that to be compelled to acknowledge such a medical paternity as that of which this Dr. Hutchings is a fair specimen, would require a larger soul than I have. As wanting, however, as he says I am, in magnanimity of soul, I would scorn to treat him or any one else, by the utterance of such mean and contemptible insinuations. I have always made it a point of honor to concede to others what I demand for myself, even though this right might be denied me by the jealousy and injustice of my opponents. An honorable, a high-minded man would never be guilty of making a gratuitous attack of such a character upon one whom he might consider a rival, lest he should be suspected of unworthy motives. I need not, however, observe what is already too well known, that there are a few mean, envious and disappointed spirits among these Medical Reformers or Eclectics, who are ever ready to fling dirt at those whose talents, acquirements, industry and success have placed them high in public estimation. These envious and restless persons generally confine their attacks against me, to base insinuations, as dirty as the source whence they sprang. Their discharges of small arms have from time to time been levelled at me from behind divers points, yet notwithstanding this continued *fusilading*, which heretofore I have not condescended to notice, I am yet alive and at the service of my friends. If, however, I have sustained no injury by these attacks, it is not by any means the fault of those who made them; for they have continually kept their *Caldron* boiling with every heterogeneous substance upon which they could lay their hands. They, like Shakspear's witches, never hesitate to take

"Eye of newt, and toe of frog,  
Wool of bat, and tongue of dog,  
Adder's fork, and blind worm's sting,  
Lizard's leg, and owlet's wing."

The principal cause of this opposition is very obvious, they wish, for a certain purpose, to claim the whole of my success in the treatment of a certain disease, to the peculiar method they themselves practice. This claim I refuse to grant them, for the best reason, and that is, that I do not practice their method in the treatment of this disease. My audacity in making this avowal and my refusing to grant their claim are among

the main causes of their opposition. This is the cause of Dr. Hill's attack on me and the grand secret of the whole matter. He is determined, if possible, to make all the capital he can out of my success, for himself and his cause. This modern *Elijah* and would be only conductor of medical reformation, has the exalted vanity to imagine that no improvements whatever in medical or surgical science, can or should be made beyond the pale of his little *Utica*; hence his sole object is, at all hazards, to identify, if possible, the method I pursue, with Dr. Beach's; and no falsehoods seem too barefaced, if they in the least aid in the accomplishment of this his darling object, which is, I repeat, to endeavor to make the community believe, by his mere assertion, that I have stolen Beach's method, and that all my success is attributable to my practicing this fraud, and thus to attract attention to himself and to those who, with him, practice Beach's method. He expects in this way to build up his own and their reputation in the treatment of this disease, by blasting my moral character in representing me as a robber, &c., and at the same time elevating my professional character by representing me as "*notoriously successful*," that I have "*gained quite a personal reputation*," that I have "*talents, skill and learning*," and that I "*cure all the cases OF COURSE*." He admits all this for the sole purpose of building up his own cause at the sacrifice of my moral character. Is this honest? is it honorable? Dr. Hill appears very learned in the law too, and should be dubbed L. L. D. He speaks much of larceny, grand larceny, petty larceny, &c., and says that "*science is a robbery if thievishly appropriated*." Yes, a man's reputation too for success in any enterprise, his good name and fame are also a robbery if thievishly appropriated; indeed it is a robbery of the most unprincipled description. Such a theft this depredator of men's characters and reputations has committed upon me.

I repeat that Dr. Hill has admitted all my success, &c., for the purpose of making capital for himself and the cause he advocates, by representing that I am entirely indebted to Drs. Beach and Morrow for all I know on this subject, and that the eclecticism, which he advocates, is the only source of all light and knowledge. Who can not see that the main object of his article is to induce persons who may be laboring under this disease to employ him, or those who, like him, practice the same method, by endeavoring to make them believe that they can be cured by him or them just as well as by me, for that I practice the same method that they do. That it is therefore not necessary for them to visit Louisville or New Orleans, when they may be cured at home, and at



much less expense. This is the grand argument in the game that has been played by these characters for the last twelve years, with but little success however. A case of this very kind occurred in Cincinnati recently. One of the successors of Dr. Morrow, whose name I did not learn, remarked, to a Mr. Hamilton, of Indiana, who had called to consult Dr. Morrow in relation to his brother who was laboring under a fistula in ano, that Dr. M. was dead, but that he was one of his successors and that he could attend to the case. On my name being mentioned in connexion with the treatment of this disease, this same Doctor further remarked that his mode and mine were identical, that I had learned it from Dr. Morrow, &c.; and to prove what he said, read to Mr. Hamilton the slanderous article in Hill's Surgery, remarking that Dr. Hill alluded to Dr. Bodenhamer of Louisville, Ky. He also offered to treat this patient for twenty-five dollars. Mr. Hamilton, however, brought his brother to Louisville, and it was from him that I obtained the first intimation of Hill's base slander. Would any high-minded and honorable medical gentlemen be guilty of such contemptible and unprofessional conduct? Who would acknowledge such a medical paternity as this?

Dr. Hill finding that it would be impossible to sustain his charge, but unwilling to abandon it entirely, as a gentleman should have done,—“that is as a physician,” now gives us a modification of it thus:

“He has found it necessary to state that he does not practice upon the same principles as Dr. Beach and the Reformed School in general. The statements of his patients, however, prove clearly that if he does not use the same remedies, he applies very similar ones, in the same manner, and with the same results.”

The Doctor is determined to carry out his favorite object of identifying my method with Beach's; being unwilling to give me up to the last. By this same process of reasoning I can identify Dr. Hill's practice with the Thompsonian practice, or if he pleases, with the practice of the “*Old Hunkers*.” If any of my patients have stated that I adopted Beach's method in the treatment of their cases, it only proves their ignorance of what Beach's treatment is, and that they were entirely mistaken, that's all. No patient, however, at all familiar with the effects of Beach's *sine qua non* could for a moment mistake the peculiar sensations it produces, if applied to his own person. That I sometimes use slightly pungent or stimulating applications, is true; these might, by some who are ignorant of the nature of caustic, be mistaken for it; for some persons imagine that every thing pungent is caustic. Nothing, however, could be more absurd. I entirely reject potential fire in all its forms in

the treatment of fistula in ano, and I defy any one, be he patient or not, to prove to the contrary. I have frequently heard of reports, said to have been made by my patients, some, that my method was the ligature, and others, that I did not use the ligature; all this, doubtless, originated from the fact that I do sometimes use the ligature and sometimes I do not. I am not, however, to be held responsible for every thing my patients may say, as they are liable to be mistaken. I know, however, that they would not willingly misrepresent me.

I will now give some of my objections to Beach's method of treating this disease. I object to his "Vegetable Caustic" for the following, a very few of the many reasons, I have. It is well known that *caustic potash* is one of the most powerful escharotics known, quickly destroying the life of the parts with which it comes in contact, and extending its action rapidly to a considerable depth beneath the surface. It is therefore only fit for destroying excrescences, forming issues, &c.; and this is the opinion too of some of the most eminent Surgeons of Europe and America. When we take into consideration that the vicinity of the rectum and anus is invested with such an abundance of free cellular tissue, and that how very prone this tissue is to suppuration, the slightest causes sometimes resulting in it, the very serious objections to such a powerful and penetrating escharotic applied to these parts, must at once be evident to the mind of every intelligent surgeon. I have treated many cases, that had previously been treated for months by this most painful and *torturous* remedy; and the consequence was, that not only was the disease not cured, but that it actually spread into the contiguous parts. This, too, is almost an invariable result when the general health is not good. I therefore reject the very *sheet-anchor* of Dr. Beach in the treatment of this disease. Dr. Beach adopted the erroneous opinion of the ancient physicians with regard to the hardness that usually surrounds fistulous abscesses or sinuses, and the absolute necessity of destroying this with some powerful escharotic before a cure at all could be effected; hence his caustic potash or vegetable caustic. He says, "The peculiarity and difficulty of curing this disease is the hardness or callus which lines the sinus."—*A. Practice*, vol. 2, p. 189. New York, 1833. I have treated many cases that were entirely free from this hardness or induration and found them to be as difficult to cure as those in which this induration existed. I have also in hundreds of instances removed this hardness or callus by the very mildest applications, even when it resembled cartilage in hardness. This error therefore stands upon a supposition which is not true. I have elsewhere, when speaking on this same subject, said:



"The indurations and the callosities, consequent upon chronic inflammation, by which fistulous passages and abscesses are usually surrounded, were anciently considered malignant alterations of structure, and that they absolutely required a complete removal before a cure could be effected. These erroneous opinions led to the adoption of some of the most violent and barbarous methods, such as the complete extirpation of all the diseased or callus parts by the knife, or a destruction of them by the actual or potential cautery, or a combination of all these means. Celsus was the first who dissected out the whole parieties of the sinus or abscess. Albucasis, Jean de Vigo, Durand Sacchi and Severinus applied the red-hot iron to the parts, after they had previously been laid open with the knife. Guy de Cauliac made his incisions with a red-hot bistoury, introduced on a grooved sound. Leonidas carefully removed all the callosities by means of a forceps, a knife and a peculiar speculum. Dionis scarrified the indurations after having previously laid open the whole route of the sinus." Pott, when speaking on this subject, says :

"Imagining this callosity to be a diseased alteration made in the very structure of the parts, they had no conception that it could be cured by any means, but by removal by a cutting instrument, or *by destruction with escharotics*; and therefore they immediately attacked it with the knife or *caustic*, in order to accomplish one of these ends; and very terrible work, by their own accounts, they often made before they did accomplish it."—*Pott's Surgery*, vol. 2, p. 203-4. Phil. Ed, 1818.

The same error still induces a few surgeons of the present day to use the actual cautery. The cauterization is adopted, by means of an iron corresponding in diameter to that of the sinus, and the temperature of which is elevated to that of red heat. The same error also induces many of the present day to use the various caustics and excharotics for the same purpose.

I also object to Beach's method of treating the abscess when suppuration has taken place. He says:

"An incision may be made to let out the matter, which I have occasionally done, but I prefer when the patient is willing to wait, to let the abscess burst spontaneously, or by the aid of the poultice, in which case there appears to be less callus or hardness remaining, and the sinus is not so liable to close."—*American Practice*, p. 533. N. York, 1848.

My practice uniformly is, when called to see a case at this early stage, to lay the abscess completely open, and let out at once its whole contents. This operation should be performed as soon as the slightest fluctuation can be detected in it. It will prevent the spread of the disease, which is almost certain to take place, especially when the general health is

not good; and it will also prevent the future accumulation or lodgment of pus, and thus break up the disease at once. Abscesses of this kind suffered to break spontaneously, or opened by a small incision, will almost in every instance become fistulous. I consider this of grave importance at this early stage of the disease. The difficulties of early incision of which Dr. Beach speaks, that is the great liability to hardness and to the closing up of the sinus, I have never known to obtain, when well opened at first; but on the contrary, the very best results have followed such a procedure in my hands. Dr. Hill recommends opening such abscesses with the caustic potash. This is a barbarous and unscientific method and should be repudiated.

I also object to the frequent use of injections as recommended by Dr. Beach, especially his lye or "*Wet Fire*" injections. I scarcely ever use injections, and when I do, it is some bland liquid merely to wash out the sinus. Even this, however, is but seldom done, as all my patients can testify. My candid opinion is, that not one case in five hundred can be cured by injections, I care not of what kind they are.

I object too, to the use of armed, or charged tents, such as recommended by Dr. Beach, who introduces his vegetable caustic into the fistulous passages by charging or arming his tents with it, and pushing them into the sinuses, I but seldom use tents, and when I do, it is merely for the purpose of enlarging the sinuses, so that I can through them, the better make my explorations. I use for this purpose the gelatinous or the hemp tent, but I never charge, arm or imbue them with any escharotic whatever.

I am opposed also to the free use of salves, which are among Beach's constant applications. I scarcely ever use them. I sometimes use soft and soothing ointments to bathe the parts.

I am opposed too, to the frequent use of poultices, in the manner used by Dr. Beach. I only use them in the early stage of the disease, whilst suppuration is going on, and for a short time after the matter has been evacuated, or until the acute inflammation has subsided. In short, my dressings are but few indeed, and of the very simplest kind, often consisting of nothing but dry lint or *charpie*. I entirely repudiate the many and complicated dressings of Dr. Beach. I never encumber my patients with such a farrago of various kinds of external appliances.

I also object to the use of purgative medicine in the treatment of this disease, unless it is absolutely necessary; and then the mildest kind should be used. It is well known that even the mildest purgative will produce more or less irritation in the lower bowel, which should by all



means be avoided. I always relieve simple constipation of the bowels, unless caused by obstinate inactivity of the liver, by exercise, by diet and by the occasional use of cold water, or cold flaxseed tea enemata. I therefore seriously object to the use of Dr. Beach's "Anti-bilious Powder" in this disease, as recommended by my friend, Dr. Hill, in the following language: "The bowels should be gently moved by the compound powder of senna, *or some other mild hydragogue.*" This compound powder of senna is a "*dog's dose,*" and it operates like a "*saw mill.*" No such medicine is at all indicated in such cases. I therefore never use it in this disease.

I object also to combining the caustic potash, or any other escharotic, with the ligature, as Dr. Beach does, when he uses the ligature. This combination has always been the great and the serious objection to the use of the ligature heretofore. I sometimes use the ligature, but never combine it with any caustic or escharotic whatever. I use it in all cases in which the sinus penetrates the bowel high up, and in all cases in which the general health is very bad. I, however, differ very materially from Dr. Beach, as well as Dr. Hill, in the size of the ligature, its manner of introduction and *tightening*, which are matters of no small importance. I do not use "*saddler's silk,*" either single or double, nor do I effect the *tightening* either "*by tying as firmly as the patient can bear,*" or "*by rolling on or twisting with a piece of wood,*" or by the *cork* invention of Dr. Hill, or the *poplar bark* invention of my friend, Dr. Hutchings. All these are inconvenient, painful, ill contrived and most bungling methods.

I do not object, by any means, to Dr. Beach's method of treating this disease, merely for the sake of objecting, of differing, or of finding fault. I would be pleased to agree with him on this subject, and with all those who adopt his method, as I most cordially do on other subjects, could I do so conscientiously. The differences between us are wide and irreconcilable. They are radical, they are *fundamental*. Dr. Hill, however, says of this method: "All who have learned it and practiced it, have been well satisfied with its results." I for one can not, by any means, respond to this sentiment and speak the truth; and I have abundance of testimony too, to prove that this is not the experience of many others who have learned it and tried it effectually, Dr. Hill's declaration to the contrary notwithstanding.

I will now proceed to prove that Dr. Beach's method of treating a fistula in ano, did not originate with him, but that it was practiced in nearly all its essential elements, for upwards of fifteen hundred years.

"When the fistula is narrow and long," says Galen, "and does not appear to me to contain callus internally, but only sordes, I first inject lye into it, and then allowing it to remain in the fistula until I expect that the sordes has fallen completely off, I afterwards apply the medicine."—*Paulus Ægineta*, vol. 2, book iv, p. 123: London, 1846.

Now let us hear Dr. Beach,—

"Weak lye," says he, "answers very well. The strength of it can be gradually increased as it may be required, but there is no danger of using it very concentrated; for the cure is expedited according to its strength. This liquid should be injected once or twice a day."—*American Practice*, vol. 2, p. 190.

Thus we find that the very *sheet anchor* of Dr. Beach was used by Galen one thousand five hundred years ago, in the treatment of this disease. This remedy was also used by the Greek, Roman, and Arabian physicians in cutaneous diseases.—*Paulus Ægineta*, vol. 2, B. iv, p. 28. The lixivial ashes of figs boiled in a pot was also used anciently, with other articles, for preventing the growth of hair on the chin and other parts.—*Ib.*, vol 1, B. iii, p. 588.

"The burning of the eyelids with caustic medicines was reprobated by all the ancients, lest the acrimony of the application should prove injurious to the eyes, and because when the burning was carried to too great an extent, the affection called lagophthalmos was produced, in which case the eyelids cannot be shut, and the vision is apt to be injured by every thing that comes in the way. But since many who suffer from the irritation of the ciliary hairs are not able to endure even the name of the operation by suture, we are compelled by necessity, against our will, to have recourse to burning by medicine."—*Ib.*, vol. 2, B. vii, p. 264. "Rhases and Albucasis, however, also mention the operation. They direct us to burn the part with a preparation of quicklime and soap, with the addition of some caustic lixiva or lyes. The ancient lyes or lixivian ashes, appear to have been preparations of potass more or less pure. We need scarcely remark that these applications must have resembled the caustic paste, now used in forming issues.—The strained lye of which mention is made by Paulus was probably the same as the calx coloto of Caelius Aurelianus.—(*Tard Pass*, v. 1.) It appears to have been an impure preparation of potass with the addition of some lime."—*Ib.*, vol 2, B. vi. p. 265, "The earlier modern surgeons, such as Gulielmus de Saliceto, Arnoldus, Rogerius, Rolandus, and Guy, of Cauliac, in imitation of the Arabians, direct fistulæ to be treated by the application of septicæ, the actual cautery or incision. Rogerius recommends tents spread with quicklime and soap or with arsenic.—*Ib.*, vol. 2, B. iv, p. 125 "Caelius Aurelinus, in cases of ischiatic disease, speaks of forming issues over the hip joint by the actual and the potential cautery. His potential cauteries with which he mentions that es.



chars were burned, appear to have been the ashes of herbs, that is to say, impure preparations of the caustic alkali, to which quicklime was sometimes added. They must therefore have been nearly the same as the *calx cum kali* of modern use."—*Ib.*, vol. 2 B. vi, p. 394-5.

"Fear of hemorrhage," says Pott, "in making a large division of parts, and a design to destroy callosity, gave rise to the use of caustics for this purpose. By the introduction of them in different forms and manners into the sinuses, that part of the intestine which divides the cavity from that of the abscess, is intended to be destroyed, and thereby the proposed end of making one cavity of two, is to be accomplished, while at the same time the supposed callosity is to be wasted. For this purpose some of the most fatiguing and painful escharotics have been prescribed and used; the pulvis angelicus, the *Lapis Infernalis* (caustic potash) and troches and pastes made with sublimate, arsenic, &c. But this method is so cruel, so tedious and so inexpedient that I hope it is, by this time, totally out of use; it was founded in error and tends only to mischief."—*Pott's Surgery*, vol. 2, p. 326.

It is thus seen that Dr. Beach's *sine qua non* caustic potash was used too in the days of Pott, now about one hundred years ago. It was then too, introduced into the sinuses on tents precisely as it now is by Dr. Beach, and for the very same purpose. Pott further remarks, in a foot note on the same page as last quoted, that—

"Dr. Daniel Turner who practiced surgery within these few years, used this method in its full extent. In his works may be found an account of his forming tents of the *trochisci é minio* and thrusting them into the sinuses, there to remain until they had produced a sufficient eschar." "This induration," says Pott, "and this sort of discharge, are often mistaken for signs of diseased callosity, and undiscovered sinuses; upon which presumption, escharotics are freely applied, and diligent search is made for new hollows; the former of these most commonly increases both the hardness and the gleet; and by the latter new sinuses are sometimes really produced; these occasion a repetition of escharotics, and perhaps incisions; by which means cases which were at first, and in their own nature, simple and easy of cure, are rendered complex and tedious." Pott continues: "The *praecipitatis ruber* seems to have been the great external specific of most of our immediate predecessors, and to have been used by them for the very different purposes of destruction and restoration. With this, either in dry powder or mixed with unguent, the tents, pledgets, &c., with which they dressed these sores were spread and embued. That the same practice too much prevails, they who please may be convinced." Mr. De la Faye says: "Si les chairs s'élevent trop, on les consumera avec la pierre infernale." (If the flesh is too much elevated, destroy it with the *infernal stone*, (caustic potash).)—*Ib.* vol. 2. p. 222. "If the sinus has not been laid open, and the bad state of the parts is occasioned by the injection of astringent liquors, (the one for the destruction of callosity; the other for the drying

up of gleet and humidity) no operation of any kind should be attempted until both the patient and the parts are quiet, cool and easy; cataplasm clysters, rest and proper medicine must procure this."—*Ib.* vol. 2. p. 253.

These are but a few of the numerous authorities that might be adduced to prove that this "*American Method*," as Dr. Hill calls it, never originated in America; that neither "*the principle*" nor "*the measures necessary to make it effectual*," ever originated either with Dr. Beach or any of his cotemporaries; but that it was practiced by the ancients and by others, even down to the present day, with doubtless as much success, if any, as it has in the hands of either Dr. Beach or any of those who have adopted his method.

The celebrated Pott reprobated in the strongest manner the caustic method; that is the application of the *potential fire* in any, and in all of its forms, together with all other applications which tended in the least to produce irritation of the parts; including the method of ligature and caustic combined. He also condemned in no measured terms the methods which proposed, monstrous, cruel and dangerous operations, with the knife. In short, he has done more to put down those various and barbarous methods, and caused a greater and a more complete revolution in the treatment of fistula in ano, than any one surgeon, previous to, or since his day. Such were the great improvements he made in the knife operation, that it was universally adopted, and his method has undergone but very slight changes since.

As it regards the method by ligature or *apolinose* in the treatment of this disease, it is as ancient as surgery itself. It is first minutely described, and the method of introducing it, given by Hippocrates in his work (*De Fistula*.)

"Hippocrates directs us to pass a raw thread, consisting of five pieces, through the fistula by means of a probe, having a perforation, or a double-headed specillum, and to tie the ends of the thread and tighten it every day, until the whole intermediate substance between the orifice be divided and the ligature fall out. If it remain long, the thread may be sprinkled with the detergent powder, called psarum or some such powder, and drawn in."—*Paulus Aegineta*, vol. 2. book vi. p. 400. "Hippocrates employed," says Dr. Coates, "a blunt pewter eyed probe which he armed with his ribbon of thread and horse-hair, and passing its extremity into the rectum, he brought it down with the index finger of his left hand placed in the anus; then withdrawing the probe by this extremity, the ligature was carried through the sinus and anal canal—its ends were tied externally in a sliding knot, and tightened as usual, from time to time, until the septum was completely divided. A similar mode



is still in use, except the probe is now made of silver. The chief objection to it is the difficulty of bending the end of the probe in the rectum without a very painful traction on the septum. This difficulty becomes greater when the internal orifice is located high on the rectum; and it is insuperable when it rises above reach of the finger."—*American Cyclo-pedia of Practical Medicine and Surgery, Art. Anus*, vol. 2. p. 144.

Celsus also describes the method by *apolinose*. He says it is slow, yet free from pain, but that it may be expedited by smearing the thread with some escharotic ointment. The following is his direction for its introduction, &c.:

"In has dimisso specillo, ad ultimum ejus caput incidi cutis debet; dein novo foramine specillum edu ci lino sequente; quod in aliam ejus partem, ob id ipsum perforatam, conjunctum sit; ibi linum apprehendendum, ligandum que cum altero capite est; ut lax cutem, quæ super fistulam est, teneat; idque linum debet esse crudum, et duplex, triplexve, sic tortum ut unitas in eo facta sit. Interim autem licet negotia agere, ambulare, lavare, cibum capere, perinde atque sanissimo."

[The specillum being introduced into these, at its extremity, an incision should be made through the skin; then from this new aperture the specillum should be drawn out with the thread attached to its other extremity, perforated for that purpose; then the thread should be seized and its two ends tied together, so that the skin over the fistula may not be too tensely held; the thread should be raw, double or triple, and so twisted that it may form one. In the mean time the patient may attend to his ordinary business; he may walk, wash and take his food as if nothing were the matter.]

The following description of the ancient specillum, which must have been a kind of double-headed probe or sound, is from Fabricius:

"Il nous suffit seuvoir que *specillum* (qui est le mot Latin de Celse) est un instrument long et rond, de cuivre, d'argent, ou de plomb, dequel on sonde les fistules, ayant un de ses bouts plus large, et l'autre plus étroit en vulgaire Italien *stilo*."—*Chir.* ii.

[It is sufficient for us to know that *Specillum* (which is the Latin word used by Celsus) is an instrument long and round, of copper, silver or lead, with which fistulæ are probed, having one of its ends larger and the other straiter (or narrower); in Italian, *stilo*.]

Albucasis approved of either the knife, the actual or the potential cautery or the apolinose, according to circumstances.—*Chir.* ii., 80. Avicenna used the apolinose, and preferred for this purpose twisted hairs or bristles of a hog, as they would not rot.—iii., 18. Ambrose Pare approved of the apolinose and incision.—*Chir.* ii., 380, Paris, 1614.

Foubert and Camper likewise practiced the apolinose—the one with a *leaden* thread, the other with a *silk* one. Guido de Cauliaco and Rogerius approved of the ligature.—*Paulus Ægineta*, vol. ii., B. vi., p. 402. The following authorities can also be consulted on the subject of the ligature in the treatment of fistula in ano: Gackenberger.—*Dissertatio de ligatura Fistularum Ani*. Gottingen.—1784. Berndorf. *Dissertatio de ligatura Fistulæ Ani*. 4 to. Erlangæ.—1806. Lefevre.—*Dissertation inaugurale sur la Fistulæ a l'anus, suivie d'un nouveau procédé pour en pratiquer l'opération par la ligature*. 4 to. Paris. 1813.

The great objection to the ligature heretofore, has been its combination with the method by caustic. To this I have always objected, and continue to object for reasons already given. Whenever the ligature is used by Dr. Beach or any of those who have adopted his method, it is used in combination with caustic. Let us hear our friend, Dr. Hill, on this subject. “While the ligature is on, the parts should be fomented every day, and every sinus thoroughly injected two or three times a day with our usual *alkaline lotion*. The *caustic powder* should also be inserted, by means of pledgets of lint. These must ‘*be crowded in,*’ and allowed to remain till the next dressing, that the caustic may gradually dissolve, and have its proper effects upon the cartilaginous growths.” It is not necessary for me to repeat to my patients and to those who are at all familiar with my treatment, that it is not identical with Dr. Beach’s or with this of Dr. Hill. They will at once distinguish the great, the vast difference, and appreciate it too.

It may truly be said of all the methods I have named for the treatment of this disease, that they all have been used in some form or other, heretofore, at different periods. They have all had their advocates, and their periodical turns, so that the subject now would almost appear exhausted. He, therefore, who would stand up at this enlightened age, before this enlightened community, and claim any one of these methods as having originated with himself, as I have falsely been charged by Dr. Hill, would be considered, by all intelligent surgeons, as hopelessly insane. No subject, perhaps, of surgical inquiry, has so much engaged the pens of surgical writers as the various methods of treating this disease. This is not the place, however, to discuss fully the merits of each one of them, or the abstract speculations on points which still remain in obscurity, notwithstanding the labors of some of the most eminent of the profession. It is very far from my wish to undervalue, in



the least, what has been done, said and written on this subject, either by the ancients or by the moderns. I consider all that has been done, as so many stepping stones towards perfection.

“It is too much the practice of the present day, for physicians to arrogate to themselves the whole merit of the present state of medical science, which they may have aided in improving; wilfully shutting their eyes to the fact, otherwise sufficiently obvious, that they have merely made a few strides in advance of a great many which had been made long before them, by those who preceded them, and under much less advantageous circumstances.”

On the subject of this disease, no small degree of praise is especially due to the ancients, those noble Greek, Roman, and Arabian physicians, the representatives of three of the most intellectual nations of mankind, who first found the correct road, and made no inconsiderable advancement in it.

“Surely, every age,” says the translator of Paulus, Ægineta, “ought to endeavor to benefit by the experiments, whether successful or otherwise, of all preceding ones, instead of every generation commencing a new series of trials, and wandering over the same grounds, in search of truth which had been long ago discovered; or, in stumbling through the mazes of error, without regarding the beacons set up by their fathers, to direct the footsteps of their descendants. If the wisdom of antiquity be entitled to high reverence in any case, it surely is so in medicine, founded, as this art especially is, on general observation and experiment.”

The same author continues:

“And here I may be permitted to express my conviction, that it is not altogether the blindness of partiality contracted towards intellectual pursuits, upon which my mind has been so long engaged, that leads me to think that the original authors, from whose stores I have drawn so liberally, will yet be found and acknowledged to have been well entitled to the confidence and reputation which they once enjoyed, and to which it is my wish that the present publication should, in some degree, restore them. It appears to me, that, at certain periods of ancient times, the standard of professional excellence was such as would not easily be attained at the present day, with all our vaunted improvements in knowledge; and that many of those early masters of our art were distinguished for varied stores of erudition, an ardent love of truth, and an aptitude to detect the fallacies of error, such as few of us even now can lay claim to. The Father of Medicine held that, to become an eminent physician, it was necessary not only to be well acquainted with the structure of the human frame, but also to be skilled in logic, astronomy, and other sciences.—*De Aer. Ag., &c.* And of him it may truly be asserted, that he cultivated the art of medicine upon the strict principles of the inductive philosophy more than two thousand years before the world gave Lord Bacon the credit of introducing this method of philosophizing. His

devoted admirer and follower, Galen, was evidently the very *beau ideal* of an accomplished physician; skilled in all the sciences of the day, in logic, mathematics, rhetoric, and the first philosophy; to all these ornamental branches of knowledge, he added a minute acquaintance with anatomy and physiology; a practical experience with the phenomena of diseases as diversified by climate, situation, and varied modes of life; a singular perseverance in collecting facts; and an extraordinary ability for generalizing them. The contemporaries of Celsus regarded him not only as well acquainted with medical literature, but also as being minutely skilled in every elegant and useful science which was known and cultivated at that remarkable period. And Rhases, the Arabian, requires of him who aspires to eminence in the medical profession, that, instead of wasting his earlier years in frequenting musical and drinking parties, he should have spent them in conning over the valuable records of ancient wisdom." "But the Sciolist," says he, "who gives himself out for a proficient in the art, while he has scarcely even a smattering of learning, will never be deserving of much confidence, or ever attain any great eminence in his profession. For it can never be that any individual, to whatever age he may reach, should be able to comprehend in his mind a subject so vast and diffuse, except by treading upon the footsteps of the ancients; since the boundaries of the science far exceed the narrow limits of the life of man, as is the case with most of the liberal arts as well as with medicine. The number of authors is not small by whose labors the art has attained its present growth; and yet one may hope to master the monuments of their industry within the space of a few years. Let us suppose that, in the course of a thousand years, a thousand authors had made improvements in the profession; and then a person who has diligently studied their works may improve his mind as much in knowledge as if he had devoted a thousand years to the study of medicine. But, when an acquaintance with former authors is despised, what need be expected from the efforts of a single person? For, however much he may surpass others in abilities, how is it to be supposed that his private stock of knowledge should be at all worthy to compare with the accumulated treasures of antiquity? In a word, he who has never turned over the pages of the ancient physicians, nor has formed to his mind a distinct conception of the nature of disease before he enters the chambers of the sick, will find that, from ignorance and misapprehension, he will confound one complaint with another, for this obvious reason, that he has come to his task unprepared and uninstructed."

Those surgeons who advocate the knife, and the knife only in the treatment of anal fistulæ, and who imagine that I use the ligature in all cases, are constantly in the habit of representing my practice as being the old and long discarded and exploded method of the ancients, which say they, is now entirely obsolete and completely substituted by the knife operation. If my method really is as it is represented to be, it certainly seems to succeed admirably in my hands, yes, equally as well, if not a



great deal better than the knife operation, which, by-the-by, is nearly as ancient as any other. Would it not be well for all physicians to take the excellent advice of the great Arabian physician just quoted, that is to study well the ancient authorities, not only on this disease, but on all others. They certainly then would be the better qualified to pronounce a righteous judgment in this, as well as in other cases. The great thirst seems to be for new inventions, to the entire neglect, and the abandonment of long tried and useful ones. My method, however, is neither altogether ancient, nor altogether modern, but it is a combination of both. As to the ligature, I differ in several important points from both the ancients and the moderns. When I do use it in any case, the material always is raw silk, of which I make three particular sizes, which I have found to suit all cases, the largest size being less than any ever used before, so far as my knowledge extends. I have also a new method of introducing the ligature and of tightening it.

The peculiarities of my method are, that it occasions scarcely any pain whatever; that a radical, a perfect cure is effected with much more certainty, with no danger whatever, and in as short a time as it possibly could be done by the knife operation; and in a much shorter time and with much less pain and inconvenience than by Beach's method; that my patients at all times are enabled to attend to their business, not being confined at all to their beds or their rooms, nor prevented from freely exercising or moving about any where, by either pain or by complicated dressings. This is always of the greatest importance, especially if the general health is not good, where exercise in the open air is so very beneficial, and where the least confinement might be so very deleterious. These matters, however, and all others growing out of this subject, will be more thoroughly investigated in my forth-coming work on Anal and Rectal Diseases, in which Dr. Beach and his factotum, Dr. Hill, will be noticed and presented in their proper position to the medical profession. Before this tribunal, which is the only proper one, I am willing to submit my cause, knowing that they will decide justly between us.

It will now be seen that I have named and acknowledged some of the principal causes and sources of my success, in the treatment of anal fistulæ, and it will be perceived too that I am not indebted either to Dr. Beach or to Dr. Morrow for them, more than I am to numerous surgeons of far greater renown and transcended abilities.

Dr. Hill says of my unpretending little book that it is "nothing else than an advertising puff of the author and his practice; for it throws not one ray of light on the subjects treated of." With regard to this small

work I have only to say that it was not addressed to the profession at all; that it contains merely a suggestive outline of some of my views, and not a formal development of any one of them. The very title page of this little work informs the reader at once, to whom it is addressed, and that it does not contain the treatment of the diseases named in it; and in the preface is the following:

"It is not, however, the intention of the author to give in the present work the peculiarities of his method;" and again, "It may not be improper here to remark that it is the design of the author at no distant day to present also to the Profession, a practical work on those diseases, containing a plain statement of their seat, nature, cause, symptoms and treatment. The work to be illustrated by a number of colored plates, and exemplified by numerous cases."

Also on the 148th page is the following:

"Some may censure me for not giving in this work my peculiar method of treating these diseases. My answer is, that I am decidedly opposed to *'publishing cures for the multitude.'*"

"Too many works of this class already exist for the good of the community. The instruction they need, is how to preserve their health. Books giving such instruction are real acquisitions. When, however, they do become sick, it is then especially the province of the physician to restore them to health. The object of the work has already been stated; it is simply to instruct all who will be instructed in relation to the nature, causes, symptoms, consequences and prevention of those affections. This is of the greatest importance, for the reader should never forget, that *"an ounce of preventive is worth more than a pound of cure."*

"Another reason for not publishing the treatment in this work is, that these diseases are difficult to treat, and it is presumed that none would attempt to treat them, who have not the indispensable pre-requisite, a complete knowledge of their pathology, as well as a complete knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the parts concerned."

Dr. Hill knowing, as he must have known, that the work was not addressed to physicians, and that it contained the above sentences which gave the reasons for not giving the treatment in it; and also the proposal to give the treatment in a different work, to be addressed to physicians, was, I say, in honor bound to have noticed these facts, or to have said nothing on the subject. How far I have succeeded in the publication of that work, I shall leave, not with Dr. Hill, the critic, but to those per-



sons themselves for whose perusal the book was intended. His remarks are therefore a manifest perversion and misrepresentation of it, as any one will find who will read it for himself.

This book, says Dr. Hill, is a puffing advertisement of myself and my practice. Every man's book is, in a certain sense, his advertisement; for instance, where can be found a better puffing advertisement of himself, than Dr. Hill gives us in his own book? the principal object of its publication appears to have been to record the numerous exploits of his own important self. He even gives us a portrait of himself, represented in the character of a "*bone setter*." Whether the likeness is a good one or not, I am unable to say. Yes, he represents himself in his own book as a genius of the *first water*; and if ever the Ohio river is set on fire by mortal hands, this Dr. Hill will be the distinguished individual. But, where I ask, can be found a greater amount of puffing and blowing, according to Dr. Hill, than in the September number of the Eclectic Medical Journal for 1850, and the accompanying Extra? These are filled with a large amount of *extra* advertising puffs, quite a large share of which falls to the lot of this same Dr. Hill who is one of the Professors in the Eclectic School of Medicine. One of the writers so puffs up and inflates the Doctor that there certainly must have been imminent danger of disruption. He represents him as having written the best work on Surgery in the world in the short space of *four months*. Only think of that!! Dr. Beach's work is also a puffing advertisement of himself and his practice, according to Dr. Hill, for all know, who have read his works, that quite a large space in them is devoted to various letters and publications which highly laud and puff the old Doctor and his practice into notice, Yes, these are full of the mutual puffs and flatteries of his friends and partizans. The over-weening vanity, conceit, and self-adulation of some of them is truly fulsome. We, however, hear not one word of complaint from this *factotum* of Dr. Beach, against his master. "*The case being altered, alters the case.*" If my work is a puffing advertisement, so are equally Drs. Hill and Beach's, the public being the judge in the case.

Dr. Hill denounces me for not publishing my treatment, and attributes the most unworthy motives to me for not doing so. In this he manifests his usual mean prying and contemptible impertinence. Did I treat the disease by *recipe* as he and his oracle do, I could soon publish it. It is well known that I am not only writing a work on this disease, but on all the diseases of the contiguous parts. But of what business is it to Dr. Hill when I publish my work? I will of course publish it whenever

I am ready. I understand well what my duty is on this subject, and will most certainly attend to it in my own time. It is no small affair to write a work on those diseases, such a one as I am getting up. If Dr. H. will only manifest a little patience, he may at no distant day have the pleasure of seeing it. He will then be able to judge whether there is anything peculiar in it, and whether the author is a liar or a cheat. I fully agree with him that every medical man is in honor bound to give his experience to the profession, and that to conceal important and useful knowledge from the community is a crime against humanity. For this purpose I long since determined to publish the work named, and for which object I am daily collecting facts, and in this way maturing the subject. Who would ever think of censuring a person for preparing himself well on all points before publishing a work? In the mean time any medical gentleman who wishes to know what my method is for treating those disease, let him call on me, and I will take great pleasure in informing him, as I have done in hundreds of instances heretofore. Had Dr. Hill been a gentleman—"that is a physician," he would either have called on me, (the distance being only twelve hours) or have written me, and have known the truth, previous to making such a publication of me through his book.

This book of Dr. Hill, as far as I have been able to examine it, appears to be a mere compilation from Dr. Beach's American Practice; and for all practical purposes not so good. This is most certainly the case as far as his chapter on fistula in ano is concerned. I think the indications relative to this work are decidedly in favor of the opinion that the HILL was *in labor* and *brought forth* a MOUSE. It is true, being doubtless ashamed of the old Doctor, he has dressed him up in a Sunday suit, so that in his dandyfied appearance a stranger would scarcely recognize him, but that appears to be all. But I now recollect, he has, however, made an improvement on Dr. Beach's method of tightening a ligature. Dr. B. uses a piece of wood or metal, but Dr. Hill has invented a vial-cork apparatus which he considers of such immense importance that he gives us a drawing of it in his book on page 362. He says he has not obtained a patent for it. I would therefore advise the Eclectic Medical Society, at their next meeting, to vote him their thanks for his stupendous invention, and by all means present him a *pewter medal*.

Notwithstanding the very serious charges that Dr. Hill has made against me, I cannot but feel grateful for having been introduced by him into such excellent company. He has classed me with some of the



brightest ornaments of the Medical Profession in the United States. Dr. H. says, speaking of Beach's method of treating a fistula in ano:

"This is the *American method*, not yet known to even German erudition, because our American professional *literati* have been too busy republishing or *pirating* English and French authors to have had time to give back anything new of their own."

We thus find this contemptible upstart denouncing men as robbers or pirates, whose character and genius are as brilliant as his face is *brazen*, and whose works on medical science will be as durable as time is lasting.

Regardless, however, of what either Dr. Hill or any one else has said, or may say concerning me, I will give place to no one in my solicitude to pursue the practice of medicine and surgery as a science, and to aid to the very best of my ability in supporting it in the proud position it so justly occupies in the ranks of the learned professions; and although I may be greatly inferior to others in many respects, yet I will yield to no one in love and admiration of the profession, or in anxiety to preserve it inviolable as it ought to be, "*an honorable, an intellectual and a noble occupation.*"

I will not pursue this subject any further, so far as Dr. Hill is concerned. I have pointed out quite sufficient to show the character of his attack, its shameless illiberality, its unparalleled absurdity, and its unsparing criminations of myself and others. It is manifest that he has in this matter been entirely influenced by private feeling, party prejudice, self-interest and a variety of other bad motives.

I would now, at the close, advise him never again to make such an ungentlemanly charge of unprofessional conduct against any of his professional brethren, when he knows that he has not even the shadow of a proof to substantiate it. In his feverish anxiety to affix some stigma to my character by which I might be rendered odious to all who esteem reputation better than riches, he has affixed it upon himself.

I sincerely regretted the necessity that compelled me to make this publication, I did not make it "*to puff myself into notice.*" I hope never to disgrace the truth "*by such auctioneering schemes.*" I made it solely that the truth might be known, for it must be admitted by all who know me and my practice that I have been most egregiously slandered and misrepresented by Dr. Hill and others, either through ignorance, self-interest or both.





## ADDENDA.

Since writing the preceding pages, some matters have transpired which make it necessary on my part, very much to my regret, to speak of the late Dr. Morrow, in connexion with this unpleasant subject. He is now no more, and I would therefore wish to avoid as much as possible the expression of any feeling his misrepresentations of me would naturally call forth. For the last seventeen years we were on intimate terms, as our private correspondence would show. I always entertained for him the highest respect, and looked upon him as a high-minded and an honorable gentleman, ardently and sincerely devoted to the cause of Medical Reformation. I was therefore no little surprised, when during the summer of 1849, to hear some rumors, that the Doctor was doing me injustice by misrepresenting me and my practice. I could not at the time trace these rumors to any reliable source. I therefore determined to take no further steps until I should see the Doctor and know from him whether there was any foundation for such rumors. Consequently in November of the same year I stopped at Cincinnati on my return from the North and called, both at his office and at his residence, but found him absent on both occasions. I was informed at his residence that he had taken Mrs. Morrow down to the levee, where she was to embark on board of a boat for New Orleans. I left early next morning. Although having failed to see him, I still determined not to drop the matter, but to wait, expecting in some way to get the truth in a more tangible form. Sometime in July last, I learned that a young gentleman whom I knew, who had attended a course of medical lectures at the Eclectic Medical College at Cincinnati last winter, stated that some time during the course Dr. Morrow had on one occasion when lecturing on the diseases of the pelvis, remarked that I treated fistulæ in the same manner that he did, for that I had learned the method from him whilst attending his lectures at Worthington; that I now practiced the method as a secret, and claimed it as original, and that I even denied ever having attended lectures at Worthington. And to show too how inconsistent I was, that I had requested him to attend my two daughters, in case of sickness, who were at Mr. Burnet's school, near the city, &c. To prove his charges against me, he remarked that a patient of his and one of mine had met

and compared notes, and found that they both had been treated in the same manner. Immediately on the reception of this information, I addressed the following note to Dr. Morrow:

T. V. MORROW, M. D.,

Dear Sir: Some eight or ten days since I enclosed three dollars in a letter to you, being the amount of my subscription for the Eclectic Medical Journal. I see no receipt on the cover of the last number. Perhaps, however, it came too late to be noticed.

The main object, however, of this communication, is to ascertain something relative to a matter of a much more grave import to me. I have just learned that sometime last winter you took the liberty of presenting me in a most unenviable attitude before the class of the Eclectic Medical Institute of your city. As I am about to make a publication on this subject, and as I am determined to do you all justice, will you be so kind as to inform me, at your earliest convenience, in as brief manner as possible, and as far as you may recollect, the remarks you made on that occasion relative to me, or if you please, your objections, &c., to me. I ask this as a favor which I certainly think I deserve at your hands.

I am respectfully, yours,

W. BODENHAMER.

LOUISVILLE, August 1st, 1850.

To which the following note was a reply:

W. BODENHAMER, M. D.,

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 1st inst., also that of a prior date, came duly to hand. You were credited three dollars, remitted per letter of prior date, for the Eclectic Medical Journal. I am surprised that you have not yet heard of the *death of T. V. Morrow*. He departed this life on the 16th of July last—disease, dysentary.

The explanation you ask cannot be given, so you are left to pursue what course you please in the publication you are about to make. Your own good sense must govern you in the matter.

Yours, with respect,

HENRY GREER,

Agent for the estate of T. V. Morrow, deceased.

CINCINNATI, August 4th, 1850.

This was the first intimation I had of the death of Doctor Morrow, which I deeply deplored. Now if Dr. M. made the remarks attributed to him, of which I have no doubt whatever, then he did me great injus-



tice; yet at the same time I have charity enough to believe that he did it through ignorance, being doubtless misinformed on the subject, for it is far from my intention to question the motives that actuated him in this matter. I have every reason to believe too, that on being correctly informed on the subject, he would have done me ample justice. Be this however, as it may, I would have fearlessly defied him to have established the charge of my ever having denied attending the lectures of himself and others at Worthington, or the charge of my ever having practiced as a secret, or claimed as original, his or Beach's method of treating anal fistulæ. These charges are false, basely false, and their authors are base slanderers, I care not who they are.

That I requested Drs. Morrow and Jones, during my absence at New Orleans, to attend on my two daughters, who were at *Burnet's Hygeia Female Athenæum*, in case of sickness, especially cholera, which I anticipated would soon visit our country, I most freely confess. It is not by any means a necessary consequence that because I do not adopt Beach's method of treating a fistula in ano, that I am opposed to, or reject all his practice in other diseases.

I again repeat, that truth is the sole object of this publication, and I am as ready to respect it under all circumstances, as I am prepared at all times to repel slander and misrepresentation.

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### "AUDI ALTERAM PARTEM."

(HEAR BOTH SIDES.)

*The defence of the Author against the recent malicious attack of Doctor Wooster Beach, of New-York.*

I have just obtained through the politeness of Dr. Cass of this city, the loan of the second volume of Beach's *American Practice*, of 1850, just out of press. I regret I did not see it sooner, as I shall have but a few hours to devote to the subject of the author's notice of me, the preceding part of these pages being now in press. Had I seen this work a little sooner, I would have placed the old Doctor in the foreground of this picture, and I would have had time to have presented him in much stronger colors too. His notice of me may be found on the 250th page of the second volume of what he calls his *American Practice*. This attack is somewhat different from that of his factotum, Dr. Hill, the spirit of which being more open, bold and manly. Of course the old stale

slander of *my having obtained, kept a secret, and palmed upon the community as my own*, his method of treating a fistula in ano, forms the gist of his remarks concerning me.

He says, "By reference to his work, we shall see that he has taken all his pretended discoveries from my work, and some French writers on the subject." Now, such a charge, even if true, comes with a very "ill grace" from such a miserable old offender as this Dr. Beach, whose *American Practice* is a complete magazine of *plunder*; yes, from the beginning of it, to the end of it, the compiler is a plagiarist; and he is not only a plagiarist, but a most consummate hypocrite too. Doctor Beach has lived upon plunder, and it is just as natural for him to filch from, or appropriate to his own use the labors of others, as it is for him to take his daily food. On the subject of depredations of this kind, he has no conscience, or if he has, it is a seared one, or it is callus or indurated, and entirely beyond the impression of his favorite remedy for all callosities, "*Vegetable Caustic*." Yes, it is so callus that I fear his *sine qua non* lapis infernalis will never soften it. His attack on me is entirely gratuitous; it is dishonest, illiberal and most unpardonable, especially in a man of his advanced age, and one, too, who is aiming with all his energy to place himself at the head of a revolution in medical science, of which, however, he will never be any thing more than what he really now is—its *tail*. Some may think this language too strong; but it is not so. All such should consider the reckless character of the man, and the baseness of the slander, a mere assertion without a particle of proof, and made without the slightest provocation on my part, and designed to accomplish a most unworthy object. They should recollect, too, the manner of its publication, in a surgical work, thus cutting me entirely off from the privilege of ever replying through the same medium. They must also remember that I am entirely on the defensive, and that even a worm, when trampled upon, will *recoil*. Nothing could be more absurd to those who have read both Beach's remarks and my own on fistula in ano, than the idea of my having stolen any thing whatever from his very exceedingly meagre and insignificant little account of this disease. There is really nothing in his chapter on this subject that is worth a pinch of snuff, or that is worth stealing. Who, I ask, could ever obtain a knowledge of the nature and treatment of this disease from his book? In his last edition, now before me, in order to enlarge and embellish this very chapter, this literary thief steals a large portion, *verbatim*, from my little book, published three years ago, which, by-the by, is the very best portion in his whole chapter, descrip-



tive of this disease, as all will admit as soon as they read it. This charge I will shortly prove; for I will not do as Dr. Beach has done, make my charges in general and in vague terms, without proof, but I will specify and prove them to the entire satisfaction of all who will examine this subject. I now ask Dr. Beach, where are the pretended discoveries which he says I have taken from his book, or from French authors? He has not named one single one. Why did he not do it? I challenge him to name one solitary discovery which I pretend to, that I have taken from any thing he has written on this disease, or from any other source. Now let him do it if he can, or dare. But where, I ask, are the discoveries which this great Dr. Beach himself has made in relation to this disease, which, he says, I have taken from his book? Yes, where are they? Echo answers—*Where?* I have never read them. I have never seen them. They are not in his book. How, then, could I have taken them? Where is the record of any surgical instrument, or of any surgical operation of any kind, or any new idea given in his book on this disease, to which he can lay claim as the inventor or the discoverer? He cannot point out one. If he can, let him do it; and then I will prove that he obtained it from some other source, and that too without the slightest acknowledgment whatever. Nothing can be found in his book on this disease, that cannot be found in other works, written either since or long before he was born.

Dr. Beach says that Dr. H. B. Shepard, a graduate of his school who was once a partner of mine in practice, and who assisted me in treating the diseases of the rectum, informed him that I followed the very practice laid down in his book. It is true that Dr. Shepard, about ten years ago, was a partner of mine, and that I always entertained for him the highest respect; but Dr. Shepard knows, all my patients know, and almost every one else at Paris, Ky., knows that he did not aid me in treating the diseases of the rectum. He aided me in the treatment of other diseases, or of the practice of medicine in general, but, with the exception of about three cases, he never aided me in the treatment of fistula in ano. Although he was a graduate of Dr. Beach's school he frequently differed more widely from Beach in the treatment of various diseases than I did. This, of course he had a right to do. If Dr. Shepard ever stated to Dr. Beach that he aided me in treating the diseases of the rectum, and that I treated these diseases by the very practice laid down in Beach's book, he stated that which is false. This I am prepared to prove by my patients, and by the citizens of Paris who are familiar with these matters, whenever Dr. Shepard comes out with a statement to this effect

under his own signature. I do not yet believe, however, that Dr. Shepard ever made just such a statement to Dr. Beach.

"Our treatment," says he, "is here laid down for any one to read; and all that this man ever knew about this disease he derived from our work."

This is truly rich! Oh! the stupendous vanity and self-conceit of this profoundly vain old mortal. Can it be possible that Dr. Beach is the only man who has ever written on fistula in ano? Is all the knowledge on this subject, from the days of Hippocrates to the present, wholly concentrated in the exceedingly small *pate* of this very small man? But as hundreds of works have been written on this subject by men of profound intellect, of science, of genius, of great learning and research, both of this age and of years before this vain and ignorant pretender to science was born, might I not have *derived* some little knowledge at least of this disease from some of those works? Am I not as capable of reading such works, investigating this subject and making improvements if you please, as Dr. Beach? All that he has ever written on this disease is comprised in a few pages of his work, and may be read in five minutes. He would thus deceive the public by attempting to make them believe that it was impossible for me to derive any other information on this subject than from his insignificant and beggarly account of this disease in his book. He says:

"I am familiar with the history of this man, and his pretended discoveries."

Yes, I, too, am familiar with the history of this Dr. Beach and his pretended or real discoveries from the time he studied and practiced empiricism in New Jersey until the present day. He says:

"When persons appear before the public under colors of this kind, we think it is right it should be undeceived."

I think so too; hence, I am determined to expose to the public gaze a few of the contemptible tricks of this old *marauder* and hypocrite. But if I have deceived the public, has he undeceived it in relation to me? Has he the profound vanity to suppose that he stands so high in public estimation that his mere assertions will be taken as proof against me? Dr. Beach may rest assured that it will require something stronger than his mere broad and worthless assertions to condemn me before this community. He says:

"We leave the public to judge of the principles and improvements made by this author."

I am quite willing that the public should so judge. I have no fears



whatever but that it will judge correctly between us. Indeed, it has already long since done so, for it is well known that I treat patients from all parts of the United States, some even from Dr. Beach's own city, where he has resided for many years. Yes, I appeal to Cæsar, the public, especially the medical public, in this affair of Beach, Hill, and myself, knowing full well that these tribunals, when they shall be fully informed on this subject, will justify me, and overwhelm these slanderers with well merited and withering contempt.

The cause of the attack of these gentlemen against me, was envy of my success, and the object of it was individual speculation. Could Dr. Beach induce the public to believe, or make the impression that I was indebted to his book for my treatment and success in this disease, he might influence many to purchase his *Twenty Dollar Patent Right Book* under this false impression who would not otherwise do so. He may thus succeed in deluding a few of his supremely ignorant followers who look up to him alone as their Sir Oracle; but all the educated, the intelligent and the independent portion of the Eclectics and others he cannot thus deceive.

He says: "The fable of the borrowed feathers of the jack-daw might be very truthfully applied to this author." Now I am decidedly of the opinion, and I will prove it to a demonstration, that nothing would so beautifully illustrate the character of the old Doctor himself, than this very fable of the jack-daw and the peacock, with this difference only, the jack-daw is said to have only borrowed the feathers of the peacock, whereas the old Doctor has actually stolen them. I now intend to strip this old bird of just a few of his many stolen, not borrowed plumes, merely to show how true to the life is the resemblance; and to present him to the public gaze in his naked deformity, a black and undignified bird as he is. I would first, however, advise this old Jack-Daw, never again to aspire to a denizenship with birds of a brilliant, gay, beautiful and lofty *ensemble*, lest he make himself, as he has already done, most supremely ridiculous. I will now pluck out of his tail plume *number one* which he has stolen from my book, published three years ago in Cincinnati. This plume he has filched from the 34th and 35th pages and stuck into the 234th and 235th pages of his *American Practice*—vol. 2. New York, 1850. He copies this into his book verbatim, without the slightest acknowledgment either by word or sign of quotation. Here it is:

"The term *fistula*, signifies a pipe, and in surgery denotes the tube, or narrow hollow conduit, leading from an abscess. As applied, however, by the old surgeons, as well as by the majority of those of the

present day, it includes nearly every suppurating excavation about the anus. This departure from its strict definition, is doubtless caused by the fact, that an abscess always precedes fistula, and that it is the initiative in the production of fistula. Abscess and fistula stand in the relation of cause and effect. An abscess may exist without being fistulous, but as soon as it begins to take on this action, the original cavity gradually diminishes in size, until it becomes a simple tube or sinus. Hence this complication is usually confounded, and this term made to embrace too much.

An abscess becomes fistulous in the following manner: after the pus in the first instance is evacuated, its parietes do not approximate, and its cavity is not spontaneously obliterated, but becomes lined with a pseudo-mucous membrane; and establishes in its parietes one or more canals or openings which are also lined with the same membrane, and through which it continues to discharge its secretions. This discharge may present characteristics of pus, gleet, sero-purulent sanguineo-serous or mucous matter, according to the general health of the patient, the length of time the affection has subsisted, &c. They are nearly always tortuous in their route, and sometimes most difficult to trace to their internal opening. They may frequently be felt externally and traced towards their origin. If the fistula be large and complete, it will be usually found at some distance from the anal opening; but if it be small, it may be concealed beneath the folds of the fine skin, close to, or at this orifice. This kind of fistula is very apt to be overlooked; and great care is necessary in conducting the examination."

The following is plume *number two*, which is copied verbatim from pages 37-8 of my book, and found on pages 237-8 of Beach's American Practice, vol. 2. Edition 1850. It is thus seen that this old hypocrite, whilst crying "*stop thief*," is actually stealing whole paragraphs and pages from my book, without the slightest twinge of conscience. What confidence can be placed in the declaration of a man guilty of such mean and contemptible tricks? Should his age protect him from being exposed? He has taken about seven pages from my book to embellish his meagre chapter on fistula in ano:

"Perhaps the most frequent cause of fistula, is piles. Owing to the continued irritation which they produce suppuration finally takes place at the base of some old pile tumor, which results in fistula, and in this way hundreds of cases are caused. Obstinate constipation, and the abuse of purgative medicine, the great *sine qua non* in relieving this condition, are both fruitful sources of the remote cause of this disease. The concussions occasioned by efforts in leaping, riding, &c., acting as they do, upon the whole amount of blood in the portal system which is unsupported by venous valves, produce injuries of the blood vessels, and are therefore an important remote cause of this disease. I am now treating a gentleman of Natchez, Miss., for a fistula in ano, who sustained an injury by the leaping of his horse over a bayou. The result



was an abscess, and finally a fistula. Contusions from horse-back riding; hence this disease is common among troopers, and those who are much on horseback, such as medical men who reside in country situations, &c. Leech bites are a frequent cause; they are very liable, especially, if the general health is not good, to terminate in suppuration, and finally in fistula. Four or five marked cases of this kind have come under my own observation. Fistula sometimes follows the operation of lithotomy. Excrescences about the anus, excoriations, stricture of the rectum, ulceration of the rectum, external violence; these are all causes of this disease, injuries inflicted by the introduction of the enema syringe, bougies, speculum, &c. The records of surgery afford numerous cases of this disease being caused by the presence of sharp pointed foreign bodies, which are swallowed in food, such as pins, needles, fish bones, chicken bones, splinters of wood, and little spiculæ of bone, generally swallowed in broth made of fowl. These substances are detained in the rectum, or they make their way through its coats, and lodge in the cellular membrane, exterior to it, thus causing the most serious mischief by producing abscess and fistula. I have met with numerous cases of this kind. Irritation caused by the lodgment of foreign bodies and hardened fæces in the rectum, are also a cause of this disease, so are also gun-shot wounds."

The following paragraph, which constitutes feather *number three*, is copied from the 41st page of my book and found on the 239th page of the second volume of Beach's book, same edition previously quoted. He also copies four pages from my book, commencing at the 41st and ending at the 45th, and found on pages 240-41-42 of his book as above quoted. For these four pages he gives me credit for only a small portion:

"The following language of an eminent medical writer, may with propriety be applied to this operation. "The healing of the cut, and the dismissal of the patient, are not always synonymous with ultimate recovery. Too many patients are said to have been cured by operations, which have ultimately failed. Those BLOODY BEACONS, like the false lights of wreckers, have *blazed* but to *betray*; and the surgeon and the patient have often been *lured* on, by their *lying lustre*, to perform and to submit, to *barbarous repetitions* of equally unsuccessful BUTCHERY."

The 259th page of Beach's work, vol. 2, same edition as just quoted, is entirely taken from pages 15, 16 and 26 of my book, with however an acknowledgment. The following is feather *number four*, and copied from the 18th page of my book, and found on the 262nd page of his work, vol. 2. It will be seen that he neither gives me credit, nor the authorities that I quote, but claims all as his own:

"Mr. Calvert, who travelled both in Greece and Turkey, says that, "The great frequency of hæmorrhoidal diseases among the Turks, may be traced to the indolent habit of sitting, during almost the whole day, on warm, soft cushions; to the peculiarity of their diet, which in addition

to their general habits, often produces an indolent and torpid state of the bowels; and, perhaps, an excessive indulgence in venery." (A Practical Treatise on Hæmorrhoids, &c. By George Calvert, M. D., p. 60, 1824.) "Hoffman, who practised forty years in Saxony, observes that hæmorrhoidal affections had greatly increased in his time, from the progress of luxury and the increase of idleness and sedentary habits. A confirmation of this remark is found among people who have led an active life, till a certain period of life, when, on leaving off business, and indulging in repose, they have become, for the first time, affected with piles." (Medico-Chirurgical Review, vol. vi., p. 286. April, 1825.)

Here follows plume, *number five*, taken from page 22 of my book, and found on page 262 of Beach's work, vol. 2 :

"The excision of internal pile tumors with the knife, is an exceedingly dangerous operation. It is now, however, discountenanced by some of the best surgeons in the world. Sir Astley Cooper stamped his reprobation upon it, by relating numerous disastrous and fatal cases which came under his immediate notice. Indeed, not one patient in a hundred would submit to this operation, were he to be made acquainted with the serious danger of hæmorrhage, which *always must* attend it. Dr. Bushe, in his valuable work on the diseases of the rectum and anus, page 183, says, "That excision is not likely to be attended with danger from hæmorrhage, I deny; for I performed the operation several times, and after it, have had to tie up arteries, plug the rectum, and in one instance, to apply the actual cautery. Indeed, I so nearly lost two patients, that when left to my own choice, I no longer have recourse to this operation."

The following feather is *number six*, and was stolen from my book, page 19, and found in Beach's book, vol. 2, page 264 :

"The talented and lamented Montegre, in his invaluable treatise, has also recommended horse exercise in moderation, as a powerful means of preventing and curing hæmorrhoids. He also recommended cold water, either as a lotion, a "*douche ascendante*," or an injection, as a preventive and sometimes as a cure. He gives two cases that were cured by the "*douche ascendante*," which is throwing water forcibly, by means of a syringe, against the anus."

It will thus be seen that the old Doctor has also taken about five pages from my book to enlarge and improve his barren chapter on hæmorrhoids.

The following is feather *number seven*, taken from my book, pages 100-1, and found in Beach's work, vol. 2, page 267. He neither gives me any credit, nor the authorities that I quote, but passes it all off as entirely his own :

#### "STRICTURE OF THE RECTUM,"

"THIS is a rare, but a very distressing malady, and one that has heretofore been but little benefitted by surgical measures. Therefore, a



successful method, not of treating it, but of curing it, would be truly acknowledged a desideratum.

If one might judge from what surgical writers say on the subject, the treatment of stricture of the rectum has hitherto been a mere matter of pecuniary speculation; that this disease has been the "*golden egg*, both of the regular and irregular quacks." For the benefit of the reader, I will give the opinion of several on this subject. "It is in this disorder that quackery rejoices. Occuring out of sight, (if the quack may be trusted, out of reach also,) the charlatan lies with comparative impunity, and trusts to darkness to shroud his doings. Though stricture of the rectum is seldom seen after death, it is wonderfully common during life. A patient has constipated bowels, he naturally applies to a rectum doctor; the doctor takes a long bougie, it hitches of course at the lateral turn of the rectum, or higher up than that, the case is one of confirmed stricture, the patient is doomed to be fleeced. Woe to him, or her, if he or she is rich; for it is rich people who have stricture of the rectum. Once in the hands of the charlatan and deliverance is far off. The doctor takes care to insist on the necessity of employing some one who understands the introduction of long instruments, and he naturally and properly congratulates the patient on his fortunate application to *him*. The bait too often takes, and the stricture is a confirmed one, so long as it *pays*." (Medico Chirurgical Review, vol. ix. p. 18.—1838.) "Before I finish this note, I may mention that the inexperienced are apt to refer the opposition offered to the passage of the bougie, by the folds of the mucous membrane, or the projecting ridge of the sacrum, to stricture of the gut. I am mortified to add, that I have good reason for supposing there are a few who make a profitable trade of treating dyspeptic patients for stricture of the rectum; asserting that the obstruction is high up, when in truth, this intestine is perfectly free from structural disease. Such practitioners, by passing bougies, apparently cure what in reality never existed, and thus obtain a character for skill, in the treatment of this disease, which, in truth, they do not possess." (Bushe, on the Rectum, &c., p. 266.)

Stricture of the rectum may be divided into functional or organic, or in other words, into spasmodic, or structural. The former is merely a contraction of the coats of the rectum, without either thickening or induration of the textures. Whilst the latter consists of a morbid growth, attended with the symptoms, and prone to the changes which characterize malignant degenerations of structure."

On page 275 of Beach's work, vol. 2, he introduces, for the first time, an article on *Pruritus* of the anus, which is almost entirely taken from my book, pages 87–8. I have only room for the following, which may constitute feather *number eight*:

#### "PRURITUS OF THE ANUS."

"THIS is a most distressing and rebellious affection, lasting for months, years, and even for life, and by some considered incurable; frequently reappearing after having been apparently cured. It is peculiar to no sex

or occupation, though it appears more common in males than in females; and in old age, than in adult life."

Dr. Beach, on pages 252-3-4 of his work, vol. 2, introduces, for the first time, an article on Vaginal Fistula, which he takes almost entire from my book, occupying six pages, commencing on the 118th and ending on the 124th. He neither gives me credit for one word of it, nor the authors I quote, but palms it off as his own. But I have not time to pursue this subject any further, but must refer the reader to my little book itself, a copy of which, together with a copy of this pamphlet, will be sent by mail, free of charge to any gentleman who will send me his address, *post-paid*. I have, however, given quite sufficient to prove that Doctor Beach is a man destitute of principle, and that he is grossly guilty of the very crime he charges against me. Indeed he has become reckless of every thing which the laws of God and man require him to be. His charge of my having stolen his contemptible practice and palmed it on this community as my own, I have shown to be as "*false as the baseless fabric of a vision*," The reader has doubtless e'er this discovered too, the base motive for this base trick. It was a very easy matter for Dr. Beach and his factotum to invent an issue, and then to meet it. I readily admit that they can overthrow all such positions of their own assuming.

It would seem that it was a premeditated arrangement among several of the *would be* medical Reformers or Eclectics, to make a public attack on me from different points without my knowledge or most distant expectation, to be made too, through a medium which would preclude the possibility of my replying, defending, explaining and otherwise protecting that which is dearer to me than life, my character; hence, Drs. Hill and Hutchings were to lead the advance, and Dr. Beach was to bring up the rear. Hill opened his fire at Cincinnati through his own *pop-gun* of fudge and folly. Hutchings, of Kentucky, fires off his little *cracker* through the Eclectic Medical Journal, and lastly, Beach at New York gives me his great broadside through his big *blunder-buss*, which was to demolish me entire. Indeed, I scarcely know, to judge from the very extraordinary ebullitions of excitement, whether, if these rabid Doctors had the power to give effect to their portentous swellings and vaporings, I should be at all allowed the use of any *locus in quo* under the broad expanse of the heavens, where I might in safety breathe. I am however still safe and calm, despite their vain and absurd clamoring and paltry machinations of envy, ignorance, bigotry, prejudice and interested folly. I am a little too well known to be injured much, or crushed by the



whole combined force of such mere adventurers as Dr. Beach or his factotum Dr. Hill either. I have not provoked this war, but so far, I have acted merely on the defensive. I am for peace. If, however, their voice and appetite are still for war, let them come on in a proper and honorable manner, and I will meet them, for much of my strength is in my *reserve*. If they renew the attack in an honorable manner, I repeat I will not stop at defensive measures alone, but I will "*carry the war into Africa.*"

My eye has just caught the following ominous notice which faces the title page of the second volume of Beach's *American Practice* for 1850. This note still further illustrates the character of the old Doctor. I will therefore publish it for his benefit, and for the warning of all unhappy eclectic wights, who may have formed the daring, the audacious and the presumptuous resolution to write medical books, or to think and to choose for themselves on medical subjects. This "*Old Hunker,*" Dr. Beach, is determined to monopolize every thing new in the medical line; for he has evidently got his "*dander up,*" and is fully resolved to prosecute to the death all those whom he imagines infringe in the least on his *Twenty Dollar Patent Right Book*. Dr. Beach's plan is, to steal every thing upon which he can lay his hands, put it into his *depot* of plunder, the *American Practice*, and get a patent right for the book, sell it for twenty dollars, and then threaten with the law all who attempt to write works on any of the subjects embraced in it. And in order to keep out all competition for all time to come, he publishes every year or two another edition of his work greatly enlarged by more new plunder and again secured by patent. This note is truly rich, and it is portentous of a coming storm among the Eclectics. Here it is :

"I regret to learn that propositions have been issued by several individuals connected with the Eclectic Medical Colleges, which *I have been instrumental in establishing*, to publish the principles and practice laid down in this work, under a different form, or disguised in another dress, and thus infringing upon my copy-right. These attempts, coming from those who professedly are friends of medical reform I consider unjust and calculated to injure our cause; and I presume the public will regard them in this light. Great sacrifices have been made to issue text-books for our schools, and I hope they are not to be thrown aside to give place to productions the merits of which, as it regards originality, may at least be pronounced questionable. *Having attended more or less the lectures of these persons, and possessing minutes of them, I hesitate not to state that they have not discovered one new pathological fact, or one new remedy*; and the act of publishing my work, however plausible it may appear in any form however disguised—is an unjust interference, and will be received with an "*ill grace.*"

Alas!! for Dr. Hill, his master, Dr. Beach, in the above note gives him such a rap on his unfortunate *pate* that I fear serious consequences will result from "*cerebral disturbance*." Almost the identical charge that Dr. Hill brings against me, is now brought against himself by his own master, Dr. Beach. How will he relish this? I would really like to see his reply.

Hill says of his work that, "Whatever fault may be found with this book, it cannot be said that it was not called for; or that it contains nothing but what may be found in other works on the same subject."

It will be seen however from Beach's note, that he tells a different tale altogether. He says that Hill's book was not called for, for the very obvious reason that it could not contain anything whatever which cannot be found in his own American Practice, for, says he,

"Having attended the lectures of these persons, (who were writing medical text-books, Hill himself being one of the number) and possessing minutes of them, I hesitate not to state that *they have not discovered one new pathological fact, or one new remedy*; and the act of *publishing my book*, however plausible it may appear in any form however disguised—is an unjust interference, and will be received with an *ill grace*."

Dr. Beach will now say to his factotum Dr. Hill, Sir, I have attended your lectures and possess minutes of them, and I tell you, Sir, that you have not discovered one new pathological fact, or one new remedy. What right then had you to publish my book under a different form or disguised in a different dress? Who called for your book? Where was the necessity for its publication? Recollect, Sir, you yourself have said that "Science is a robbery if thievishly appropriated." I therefore look upon you, Sir, as a robber, for you have published the second volume of my book in disguise, and thus appropriated my property to your own individual use. Recollect, too, you have also said, that "the American medical *literati* were too busy republishing or pirating English and French authors, to have had time to give back anything new of their own." Now, Sir, I pronounce you guilty of the very same crime of which you charge the American medical *literati*; you have republished or pirated the second volume of my book without giving anything new of your own. Are you not therefore, yourself being the judge, both a *robber* and a *pirate*?

This now is truly rich. These are the two gentlemen who pretend to deliver lectures to me on morals. Would it not be well for these two contemptible meddlers to attend to their own difficulties, to pull the many motes out of their own eyes, before they attempt to pull them out of mine; for they are both grossly guilty of the very charge they fail to prove against me. I would now advise them to settle their own base quarrels and let quiet and peaceable gentlemen alone for the future.





